

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENTS AND REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11 and 13-15, and 19-20 are pending. Claims 7-8 are cancelled without prejudice. No new matter is added upon entry of the amendment. Upon entry of the amendment, allowed Claims 1-6, 11, and 13-15, and 19-20 will be pending.

Applicants thank Examiner Rodee for allowing Claims 1-6, 11, and 13-15 and 19-20. Applicants also thank Examiner Rodee for discussing the present application with Applicants' representative on numerous occasions from November 1-7, 2005.

Cancellation of pending Claims 7-8 places the present application in a condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem that a personal or telephonic interview would be helpful in advancing this application toward allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

The present application was finally rejected on May 9, 2005. The statutory period for replying to the final rejection is November 9, 2005. Applicants file concurrently herewith a request for extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136, with the appropriate fee under 37 CFR § 1.17. Should there exist a variance between that which is paid and owed, the Office is authorized to charge deposit account number 15-0030, in order to maintain pendency of the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

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